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HORTICULTURE AS A PROFESSION¹

THE advancement of civilization is marked by certain well-defined epochs. There are the old stone age and the new stone age, the age of bronze, the age of steam, the age of electricity. More recently events have moved forward with prodigious acceleration. We were no sooner beginning to think of the present as the age of the automobile, than the airplane rose above the horizon, and the age of flight was ushered in. The discovery of the telephone, the wireless telegraph and the wireless telephone would either of them have been of sufficient moment to give a name to a new epoch had they only been separated by sufficiently long intervals.

So it has been with the emancipation of woman. So-called "female seminaries" were followed shortly by women's colleges, and by coeducation in the liberal arts colleges of our universities. Finally the professional schools opened wide their doors, and we became accustomed to women lawyers, doctors, and engineers. The great world war disclosed the fact that there was one occupation essentially masculine, but the departure to France of some two million or more of our male population as fighters spelled Opportunity with a capital O for the daughters of men, and we have now become familiar with women munitions workers, women street-car conductors, women elevator "boys," and women messenger "boys."

Certainly we are living in an age of rapid

¹ Address to the graduating class of the School of Horticulture for Women, Ambler, Pa., December 13, 1918.